MATWATCH
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HORSEMEN HOLD ONTO TITLES; FLAIR-LUGER ENDING A DUD

MIDNIGHT EXPRESS REGAIN U.S. BELTS; R. GARVIN TURNS

"It's too bad this event was in Maryland. If it had been in any other state, Lex Luger would be the world heavyweight champion."

Jim Ross was right and the ending was semi-original (more on that later) but certainly a disappointing end to THE GREAT AMERICAN BASH: THE PRICE FOR FREEDOM on national pay-per-view cable from Turner Home Entertainment Sunday night.

A sold out house of 17,000 ($182,000) crammed into The Baltimore Arena to see the much-heralded Ric Flair-Lex Luger NWA title match, their first head-to-head meeting since September 1986 in Orlando when Luger, still part of the Florida promotion, won by DQ over Flair when ten heels jumped The Total Package from the dressing room.

The show included one title change, the trumpeted Triple Tower of Doom, and a surprise heel turn from a veteran who hasn't gone that route in a decade. Let's review the matches, then we'll review the TV coverage:

1. NWA WORLD TAG TEAM TITLE: STING & NIKITA KOLOFF VS. TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON. This one was scheduled first to get the crowd popped early for Sting, who obviously showed why he is now the top draw in this promotion (even though Dave Meltzer says he's not sure Crockett & Dusty know it). Boy, did it start early. Sting went for a quick small package on Arn at :42 and then did a sensational leap over-the-top out of the ring onto Arn on the fly at 1:20. It was better than his Starrcade leap, yet director Tommy Edwards missed most of the flight by staying on the wrong camera angle. Nikita did a nice double sickle at 4:15 even though most of his early action involved restholds. Arn went for a sleeper on Sting at 5:10, which Sting countered with an excellent series at 6:00. Later, at 13:30 a sickle by Nikita carried both he and Tully over the top. J.J. took a poke at Nikita, who then posted himself at 14:10 when he tried to sickle J.J. Arn then went for the Anderson arm slam at 15:05 and DDT'd Nikita for a 2½ count at 16:30. Nikita finally tagged Sting at 18:10, who unleashed a great dropkick and a forward DDT on Arn at 18:45. After a tag to Tully, Sting went for the sleeper, then caught Tully in the scorpion at the bell. A 20-minute draw in a match too short for this title. Rating: ***¼

2. U.S. TAG TEAM TITLE: MIDNIGHT EXPRESS VS. FANTASTICS (Champions). Jim Cornette drew great early heat and Turner made use of good closeups during this and most of the matches. Their in-ring mike worked well, too. You could hear Cornette ask a ref before being straightjacketed, "Can you be bribed? ,000? $15,000? What is this guy? He's a crackpot...he's an honest man." The ref told Cornette: "It's okay. You'll be home around a quarter of ten." As for the match, the workrate was better than most you see today, but not up to the par of their CLASH I match or the one in which the Fantastics won the U.S. belts. Fulton did two good headscissors early, countered by a series

of four superkicks by Stan Lane. Early on, the crowd chanted "CORNETTE SUX," in the same fashion as the old Larry Zbyszko cheer. More restholds than usual early, then Fulton tagged Rogers, who did a series of four nice flying moves at 5:00. Rogers then took a hard Bulldog by Eaton at 7:45. Eaton then used a nice neckbreaker and Lane came in with two superkicks and a backbreaker on Rogers. Eaton was posted at 12:45, but rallied for a trash compactor on Rogers a minute later. At 14:55, Bobby missed a rocket launcher and Rogers tagged Fulton. But in an exchange at 16:15, Tommy Young took the "Tommy Young tumble" and Eaton used a chain on Fulton while Rogers and Lane tangled outside. He then hid the chain in Rogers' trunks. Young emerged to count the pinfall for the new U.S. Tag Team Champions at 16:55. After the match, Cornette was released from the cage and Fulton used the chain on both Midnights. Cornette was corraled while still in the straightjacket and Rogers grabbed Young's belt to give Jimbo his ten lashes anyway. An attempted interview by Bob Caudle with Cornette afterward had technical problems and bad camerawork. RATING: ***¼ But at least ½* is for Cornette's antics. This wasn't, as I say, either's best match.

3. TRIPLE TOWER OF DOOM: RONNIE & JIMMY GARVIN, THE ROAD WARRIORS & STEVE WILLIAMS VS. IVAN KOLOFF, RUSSIAN ASSASSIN, MIKE ROTUNDO, KEVIN SULLIVAN & AL PEREZ. The execution was much better than the World Class event, but the thing was still confusing to watch. The crowd didn't really get into it until Animal started working over Rotunda and Perez in the top level. Ronnie & Uncle Ivan went in first and the object was: every two minutes (though I counted 3:08 for one period), two new guys would be let into the top cage and a trap door would open for 10 seconds to allow anyone to escape into a lower level. The first team to get all its men out (with Precious holding the key to the door in the lower cage) wins. I can't say enough about how Hawk, Animal, and Steve Williams worked this one....Williams worked his fanny off at every level, but it was still difficult to concentrate. The escapes were, in order: Ronnie Garvin (who managed to get out without even a scratch and left the arena area, which should have telegraphed something for later), Animal, Al Perez, Hawk, Uncle Ivan, Russian Assassin (who did little), Steve Williams, Rotunda (who mostly got battered in every level), leaving--of course---Kevin & Gorgeous to fight it out for the lovely Precious/Patty (Patty Wilson, Jimmy's real wife). Jimmy worked over Sullivan with a spinning toe hold to wear him down in the final cage while a brawl ensued between the escapees on the outside. As Jimmy tried to escape, Precious unlocked the door for him and Sullivan bumped him out, giving the win to the faces, but locking himself inside the cage with Precious. Jim Ross is at this point in his classic UWF rage as Sullivan first tries to rip Precious' clothes, then attempts to choke her. At this point, Jimmy and Hawk race back up the ladder because the only way to rescue Precious is to go all the way down through the full tower again. They finally make it and while Hawk pulverizes Sullivan and gets the crowd in a frenzy, Jimmy makes the emotional King Kong/Fay Wray save and they all live happily until the balloon payments are made. But where was Brother Ronnie at the end???? RATING: **½, mostly for the story it told.

4. U.S. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP: DUSTY RHODES VS. BARRY WINDHAM (Champion) This was the story of the Big Ol' Fat Boy who used to could do all the moves and can't do them any more. Dusty did try a press slam at 2:00 which drew heat from the amazement and a DDT at 2:14. He even semi-managed a flying bodypress from the top rope at 2:43 for a 2½-count. Barry rallied and slammed Dusty into a table at 6:00 and applied the claw at 8:00, which he held for an unmerciful 5:04. After a Dusty escape at 13:04, he missed a figure-four and Barry reclawed the Big Ball of Cholesterol at 13:11, which he held until Tommy Young Tumble II at 14:12. With young down, Barry did the Flair bump from the top rope and Dusty went for the bionic elbow. Suddenly, Ronnie Garvin appears in the ring. Thinking Ronnie will revive Young, Dusty turns his back---after which Ronnie taps Dusty and BAM....throws the Hands of Stone KO. Barry scores the pin at 16:00.
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STEVE'S SIDELIGHTS
By Steve Beverly

Since we're a couple of weeks into the second half of '88, and since this crazy business changes so fast, let me issue what would be the 1988 MATWATCH AWARDS if the voting were done today.

I'll preface this by saying that, unless noted, I'll concentrate strictly on American organizations because so many of our readers don't have access to Japanese tapes:

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR---Ric Flair. To have held up under enormous internal and economic pressure in the NWA and for his performance in CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS alone, Flair deserves the honor. RUNNER-UP: Jerry Lawler. If this were on workrate and performance alone, I'd say Ted DiBiase. But Lawler has monumentally lifted the value of the AWA title from the ashes. It may not last, but I've got to salute Jerry for this.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR---Shane Douglas. It can be argued that Shane is no longer a rookie. But his workrate in the UWF last year (and even with his misuse by the NWA this year) qualifies. RUNNER-UP: Sugar Ray Lloyd. He's only been with Southern independents, but he looks like a bet to break into a solid promotion soon.

COMEBACK OF THE YEAR---Eddie Gilbert. After the egos in the NWA squashed him in early '88, Eddie maneuvered into one of the best feuds of the year against Lawler in Memphis and is superb as the booker for Continental. RUNNER-UP: The entire CONTINENTAL promotion for its rebound in the spring.

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR---The Fantastics. Some argue whether they're as "over" as they should be, but they refreshed this category in the NWA. RUNNERS-UP: Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson. For being so good we often take their ability to carry a weaker team for granted.

ANNOUNCER OF THE YEAR---Jim Ross. There's no announcer today who can make you believe he's as excited about the current match as you are as can Ross, the most undervalued announcer in the NWA. RUNNER-UP: Lance Russell, for his weekly ability to keep some sense in the perpetual chaos of Memphis TV.

MANAGER OF THE YEAR---Paul E. Dangerously. This guy is on a collision course with Titan and justifiably so. I marvel every week at his ability to present original material. RUNNER-UP---Jim Cornette. If Dangerously wasn't so fresh, I'd hand it to Jim again. I love Cornette's "good friend Jim Crockett" stuff.

SUPERCARD OF THE YEAR---Clash of the Champions I. While technically not a "supercard" in that it was a made-for-TV show, it held the most sustained interest and left you wanting more. RUNNER-UP: No award given.

TV SHOW OF THE YEAR---New Japan Wrestling. My major exception to the all-American rule. Consistently the most action-filled program on the globe. RUNNER-UP: Saturday Night's Main Event, based on overall production values.

WORKER OF THE YEAR---Owen Hart. I didn't come to appreciate Owen's ability until I began to see Stampede tapes. I just hope if he's WWF-bound, he isn't wasted. RUNNER-UP: Ted DiBiase, who if he's ever worked a bad match, it's because of travel weariness or injury.

COLOR COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR---Jesse Ventura, who even when he's bored and indifferent sounds interesting. At his best during Hogan's title loss on NBC'S MAIN EVENT. RUNNER-UP: Jim Ross, simply because the NWA uses him in that role more than as lead announcer as he should be.

ANGLE OF THE YEAR---The Rick Rude-Cheryl Roberts-Jake Roberts triangle. It has created more outright hate of a wrestler than anything in years. RUNNER-UP: the Lawler-Gilbert parking lot brawl in Memphis.

UPSET OF THE YEAR---Brad Armstrong's pinfall over Ric Flair in Montgomery, AL on 6/20. RUNNER-UP: Iceman Parsons over Kerry Von Erich for the World Class title (never again in our lifetime).

FEUD OF THE YEAR---Fantastics-Midnight Express, simply because match-after-match their output has been at top level. RUNNER-UP: Lawler-Gilbert and DiBiase-Savage (tie).

RISING STAR OF THE YEAR---Sting. No question the man who gets consistently the biggest crowd reaction in the NWA and perhaps the most valuable performer on any circuit at the moment. RUNNER-UP: Joe & Dean Malenko (Global), the best young tag team in several years, but who have to escape the small Florida promotion to get the American recognition they deserve.

TURN OF THE YEAR---Barry Windham. Not only was the switch to the Horsemen well-executed, the element of surprise so necessary in an effective turn was played to perfection. RUNNER-UP: Bret Hart. His role in WRESTLEMANIA IV was one of the few bright spots on the card and sets up what can be a great babyface role if Vince uses him properly.

EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR---David Woods, Continental. The man is a broadcaster and may set a trend for future promotions. He's followed a sound business philosophy of hiring bright people and letting them do their jobs. The turnaround in this group is amazing. RUNNER-UP: Vince Mc Mahon, WWF. For increasing his dominance in the industry despite a glaringly weak WRESTLEMANIA and a spring/summer season without Hulk Hogan.

MATCH OF THE YEAR---Flair vs. Sting, CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS I. The intensity in this 45 minutes remains my most vivid memory and enjoyment of 1988. It will take a great one to change my mind. RUNNER-UP: Fantastics vs. Midnight Express, March 1988, NWA PRO. This was one reminiscent of the Torres-Andersons classics of the '60s and Funks-Briscos of the '70s. Followed closely by their CLASH I match.

Now remember, this is just the view from here. MATWATCH is designed to stir your opinions, emotions, and memories. I'd certainly like to hear from some of you on your ideas. Dissenting opinions are always welcome here. Drop us a line to MATWATCH, 213 Pine Hills Avenue, Auburn, AL 36830 to express your views and we'll print the best of your votes.

At the end of the year, we'll offer a full ballot in all of the previously listed categories and have a full-scale readers' consensus.

Next week, unless a major news development supersedes, we will look at the "worst" and "most disappointing" in these categories. In my view, that's the only way to paint a proper picture of "The Year in Wrestling" thus far.

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AN EXTRA SIDELIGHT: Do you realize that the Florida heavyweight title which was presented to Rick Steiner by Mike Rotundo has not been defended, even in Florida, since the gift was given? What's rather sad is that belt has one of the soundest histories of any state title in wrestling. It was first won in August 1966 by Les Welch in the finals of a 15-man tournament against our old buddy, Sputnik Monroe. The next four champions were Louie Tillet, Wahoo McDaniel, the Great Malenko, and Johnny Valentine. Some other significant Florida titleholders were Nick Kozak, Joe Scarpa, The Gladiator, Tarzan Tyler, Red Bastein, Bob Orton Jr., Bob Roop, Bill Watts, Dusty Rhodes, Ron Fuller, Ernie Ladd, Buddy Wolff, Jerry Brisco, and Don Muraco in the late '60s and early '70s. But it was Jack Brisco's victory over Masa Saito in late 1969 which catapulted the Florida belt to national prominence and propelled Brisco to his eventual NWA world title victory over Harley Race. With such an illustrious history, the view from here is either Crockett should make Steiner defend it regularly or retire it from the mockery it currently is. Come to think of it, did Larry Zbyszko ever defend the Western States title after he took it from Barry Windham January 24 in New York? Maybe, but it's been so invisible the last four months, most folks have forgotten that belt even exists. FSB.

COMINGS & GOINGS

Initial crowd figures for the NWA Bashes look great...only a couple of disappointments and even they aren't bad. The first show in Orlando on 6/26 did a record gate for that town with $87,000. Other early crowds (and/or gates): Greenville, 4,700 (in a 5,000 seat house); Columbia, 6,500 sellout; Norfolk, 9,000 ($108,000); Charlotte, 10,000 ($98,000); Amarillo 6,500 in a 7,000-seat house; Dallas, 5,000 ($45,000) on 7/4. That's about $500,000 worth of business in the first 10 days and some of these were also sold to corporate sponsors, which boosts the take.

The disappointments were in Charlotte and Dallas. Rain did hurt the outdoor Bash in Charlotte, which regularly has drawn 20,000-plus. The show in Reunion Arena was stymied by head-to-head competition of three shows in four days by World Class in the Dallas area and on the Fourth, World Class drew 3,000 at the Sportatorium heads up. But Crockett is said to feel it is still respectable.

For last Sunday night's live show in Baltimore, the sellout take was $182,000. The show in Chicago apparently sold out UIC Pavillion, as well, the first capacity house since Starrcade. On that one, The Road Warriors and Dusty regained the NWA 6-man title by defeating Flair-Tully-Arn. The match, of course, was scheduled to be with Ivan Koloff-Russian Assassin-Dick Murdoch as heels, but it wasn't drawing a big advance gate, so the card was changed on TV last weekend.

A final note on the Bashes: sales look great for the shows in Las Vegas, Detroit and Seattle and weak in San Francisco. Ticket agents in Seattle have been flooded with requests but as of last Wednesday, the Washington State Athletic Commission still had not approved Crockett's date. My friend Glenn Fox in Seattle says ticket clerks were complaining not to even know anything about the show.

An amusing note: Sting took home $2,400 from the first week of Bashes and was said to be ticked. During the '86 Bashes, Baby Doll (Nicola Roberts) averaged $5,500 a week just as a valet. The crowds may be good but they're definitely not what they were.

The week has, unfortunately, been tainted with tragedy with the death of Keith Franke, better known to most of you as Adrian Adonis. Adonis and Canadian midget wrestler Pat Kelly (Victor Arko) and Wildman Dave (Dave McKigney) were killed last Monday night (7/4) when their minivan plunged into a stream in Lewisporte, Newfoundland. Kelly's (Arko's) twin brother Mike was seriously injured.

Adonis, of course, wrestled much of his rookie year in 1977 as a jobber for Georgia NWA wrestling. In 1982, he won a tournament for the Southwest Championship (Joe Blanchard's promotion) version of the "world" title when Southwest began a short national run on the USA network. No one in the industry accepted the "world" status. Two years later, Adonis and Dick Murdoch won the WWF world tag team belts which they later lost to Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo.

After a 1986 swing in Japan, Adonis adopted his "gay" routine for the WWF, in his "Flower Shoppe" segment that led to Roddy Piper's babyface turn. Adonis did the job for Piper's retirement match at Wrestlemania III.

Vince McMahon fired Adonis, whose weight had ballooned to an estimated 380 pounds, in the summer of 1987. After a short feud with Tommy Rich in the AWA late last year, Adonis was scheduled for a Japan tour, but suffered a broken ankle and later sued Verne Gagne charging loss of income (he claimed Verne had promised him a guarantee).

At the time of his death, Adonis had just ended another Japanese series and was wrestling for the Tomko promotion in Canada.

I cannot help but be reminded of similar tragedies in the last 15 years: the plane crash death of Bobby Shane in 1975, the auto accident which claimed Danny Hodge, the deaths of David and Mike Von Erich and Gino Hernandez, and car crashes which last summer nearly ended the career of Sean Royal, Chris Champion, and Terry Taylor. And how a late '70s plane crash shortcircuited the careers of Jim Woods, Bob Bruggers, and Johnny Valentine, and left Ric Flair with a broken back that could have stolen a legendary career from us that was only knocking on the door of its prime.

In every instance, we as wrestling followers are returned to the shocking reality that those who spend their lives selling us on how immortal they are actually are no less mortal than the rest of us.

Whether you liked or detested Adonis' ring style, he has a family and close friends who are mourning his untimely passing. He made his living entertaining those of us who follow a genre I'm not sure we will ever completely understand in its magnetism.... and was good enough to have enjoyed a fleeting success. Our condolences go to his family.

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Dave Meltzer tells me (by now, it's in The Observer) that Antonio Inoki may actually get Bob Backlund to join him in a tag match against possibly Riki Choshu and Tatsumi Fujinami for Inoki's return match in August. Backlund, who has sworn off pro wrestling, could get a possible $3,000 payoff for the one-shot deal.

Jimmy Valiant has finally left Crockett for Memphis, though I'm sure you didn't know he was still with the NWA... and Ron Simmons is apparently history. He no-showed the first two Bashes. I still say he got a lot of crowd heat in Montgomery doing his Ernie Ladd bit last month. If Eddie Gilbert wanted to get a hot feud for Pez Whatley, he ought to hire Simmons.

Our good friend Richard Hyatt says he'll miss the Columbus Bash on 7/18. Write his wife Jan and tell her to postpone their vacation.

Two final notes: the Crockett/Turner sale is beginning to sound like an episode of DALLAS. And I can't tell if Jim or David are Bobby or J.R. David is now supposedly stalling the deal because he's being told, "You can't let Jim sell your daddy's company if you don't get a chance to run it." We'll probably find out one day that Jim Sr. was really called Jock Crockett and his picture in a white cowboy hat hangs in the Dallas headquarters of JCP.

The last deal is an item which...sorry, guys...I can't tell you any more than you can likely expect a merger (faster than the Turner/NWA deal will go through) between two smaller promotions very, very soon which will probably result in a hefty amount of talent looking for work. Hopefully, I can fill you in on this next week.....

4. U.S. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP (continued)
After the match, Garvin was seen in the dressing room with J.J. and Gary Hart accepting a suitcase of money (two things are really bad about this angle, which 'll deal with in a moment). RATING: **

5. NWA WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP: RIC FLAIR VS. LEX LUGER. Time for the Torch to Pass. Don't you believe it. At first, Lex appeared to be following Jim Ross's prediction of trying to end it early. It might be mentioned that only 27 minutes remained for a match that was billed as a 60-minute time limit, then suddenly became TV time limit when it started. Lex didn't sell the chops and then hit Flair with a surprise dropkick at 3:00. Flair took a bump on the floor at 4:00 and Lex added a second press slam, a bearhug (which Flair sells better than anyone), a suplex and a flying elbow until he was gouged and thrown into the guardrail at 9:32. Luger rallied and Ric crotched himself at 12:23. Luger added a series that gained three two-counts, but Flair escaped and applied the figure-4 at 15:22. Lex reversed it at 16:23 and by now, the match is getting all too predictable. And I figured out the ending in about the first five minutes. Ross had several times during the evening pointed out the presence of the commissioners of the Maryland State Athletic Commission at ringside. They were even shown on camera three times. Now tell me any other time a state commission is ever mentioned on a show and this is the same MSAC which has a ban on blading. It's obvious we're heading for a juice job that will stop the match. At the 21:30 mark, Flair threw Luger out of the ring and slammed him and J.J. followed up by posting Lex, who then begins to juice (ever so mildly) from the forehead. As he recovers, he does an imitation of the Hogan recovery and begins to destroy Ric. As he does, the commission doctor rises from his seat and gets Young's attention. Lex then applies his overhead backbreaker on Flair and the fans think Ric's given up when Tommy sig- als for the bell. The faces even come in to congratulate Lex. But WE know ,etter. The doctor has ordered Young to stop the match because of Lex's blood and Flair gets the decision at 23:45. RATING: **½ and with that ending, I'm being generous.

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POST-BASH PARTING SHOTS

Overall, the TV production was better than STARRCADE but it lacks something desperately in two areas: (1) a dynamic stage-setting opening that reviews a brief history of the feuds with dramatic musical orchestration like ABC uses on major golf championships to give a sense of importance. Here, we had a nice computer graphic opening, but then they just went right to the world tag team match and Tony & Jim didn't even introduce themselves on camera. You need a visual preliminary to make you feel the electricity and tension; and (2) they needed an extra half-hour to do some dressing room stuff. Or did they? We sat on an announcerless picture for eight minutes while the Tower of Doom cages were constructed to synthesized music. Why couldn't we have gone to Caudle in the dressing room with Lex and Ric (even if they'd had to pretape a scene earlier in the day)?

The Tower of Doom badly needed a camera in a cherrypicker or on a crane to follow the top tower which was almost impossible to follow on TV. Plus, we could have used a post-match interview with Jimmy & Precious to end the feud.

The Ronnie Garvin turn spiced up an otherwise lackluster Barry-Dusty match (** is probably too generous) but it failed in two ways: (1) why would a man o was your former world champion less than a year ago be reduced to accepting a payoff to turn on Dusty (I could see it with a younger or mid-level performer)? and (2) as Garvin left the dressing room, you could see him walking off in an apparent amiable stride with Jim Crockett, which killed the credibility.

Ronnie will now team with Al Perez and be managed by Gary Hart. They'll probably feud against Dusty & Nikita or Dusty & Jimmy. And this probably spells the definitive end of Larry Zbyszko and of the Western States title, both of whom have been as visible as Jimmy Hoffa lately.

And again, the Flair-Luger ending was telegraphed for smart fans. The Maryland State Athletic Commission probably had more publicity than anywhere in history except The Observer.

But I still think it was a better show than WRESTLEMANIA because there were at least three fine matches and Lex didn't blow up for 24 minutes. Still, it was not on a par with the first CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS...and I did expect a bit better.

What kept the TV show interesting and I keep saying this, but it is true---was the announcing of Jim Ross. This man kept detailing the history of so many of the people: he adequately pointed out Flair's career start at 1972 and compared it to Luger's three years as a pro. He outlined Flair's dominance in the '80s brilliantly. In the Sting-Nikita match, he pointed to the fact that Sting & Nikita have almost never teamed before. And he made some semblance to the Tower of Doom even though it was difficult to follow. Ross's technical knowledge is so far veyond Tony Schiavone's it's almost embarrassing. And that's not to say Tony's a bad announcer---it's just that Ross is such a talent at making you feel like you're there. So: it wasn't their best, but it was still a decent, adequate show. More on this next week. Drop me a line and give me your thoughts.

TV TEMPO
Weekend of July 9-10

(NWA) - On NWA PRO, the Steve Williams/Mike Rotunda TV title match was still in progress as the show ended (it was a 20:00 draw), and Mighty Wilbur beat Uncle Ivan by DQ; on World Wide, the Midnight Express beat the Lightnight Express by countout when Tim Horner took the 10; on TBS, the Sheik was actually plugged for Detroit.

(WWF) - On Superstars, the King Haku crowning took the first 12 minutes of the show. Later, in an interview seg, Randy Savage was jumped by Ted DiBiase and Ted and Andre engaged in a brutal gang attack.

(USA) - Highlights of arena matches: Johnny, Davey & Tommy Rich over The RPMs and Bill Dundee; The Bullet defeated The Mongolian Stomper in a cage but took a 4-on-1 beating afterward; Scott Armstrong pinned Nelson Royal.

(AWA) - Jerry Lawler pinned Soldad Ustinov in 8:30 and in a mat classic(?), Wahoo McDaniel beat Bobby Duncum.

(CWF) - Eddie Gilbert and Ken Wayne (in drag) attacked Danny Davis to keep him out of a $25,000 challenge match; Mr. Olympia substituted and beat Gilbert by DQ when Paul E. Dangerously interfered; Lord Humongous destroyed Alan Martin but was gang attacked and juiced.

(WORLD CLASS) - Highlights of Michael Hayes' cage match win over Buddy Roberts and Kimala pinned Kerry Von Erich in a non-title match when Skandor Akbar knocked Kerry's leg off the ropes; Shaun Simpson pinned Jack Victory; and Terry Gordy double DQ with John Tatum which ended in a 6-man brawl.

(MEMPHIS) - On the syndicated show, the two Fuller-Jarrett angles were exploited. In the first, Jerry Jarrett was jumped by Robert's "stud stable" until Jeff saved with a cast on his "broken arm." Later, Jerry returned and called Fuller a "bastard child" which led to Robert piledriving Jerry. Lance Russell tried to stop Jimmy Golden from ganging up and took a bump on the set.

(SCW) - Eddie Gilbert, Tommy Rich & Bruiser Brody won over Abdullah, Buck Robley, and Dick Slater in a match ending in a 10-minute brawl. The Batten Twins beat Chic Donovan and Joey Maggs in a match where Donovan looked bad.

BLOOPER OF THE WEEK - James J. Dillon who couldn't remember Sting's partner during his TBS interview Saturday.

BOO AWARD OF THE WEEK - PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK. I'm a big admirer of Joe Pedicino but I was disappointed in PWTW offering a half-hour recap of how Patrick Schaefer became the show's co-host.